

women and girls are missing from the population, making China a regional magnet for sex and bride trafficking as men reach marrying age but cannot find a mate. The Government of China is failing not only to address its own trafficking problems, but is creating an incentive for human trafficking problems in the whole region.

The Government of Uzbekistan's record is also of great concern, as the government itself continues to force hundreds of thousands of school-age children and adults to work in fields during the cotton harvest each year.

The Government of the Republic of Congo, despite making some progress in 2010 with the passage of a law that would prevent child trafficking, has failed in the last two years to convict a single person under that law despite the pervasive child trafficking in their country.

The Government of Russia has had nine years of warning that without significant change, they too would be downgraded. However, the Government of Russia does not have in place formal procedures for identification and referral of trafficking victims by law enforcement, labor inspectors, and other government officials. The Government of Russia still has not established a government body to organize government anti-trafficking activities, nor does it adequately fund shelters or services for trafficking victims. Russian citizens are trafficked from Russia to countries all over the globe as well as within Russia, and yet the Government of Russia does not have a national trafficking education or prevention plan.

The Government of Azerbaijan continues to use administrative fines for traffickers, allowing traffickers to write-off the crime of trafficking as a simple business expense that is less expensive than hiring their workers.

The Government of Iraq has been on the Watch List since the TIP Report first began to hold them accountable in 2009. Like trafficking victims elsewhere in the world, the victims in Iraq need protection, those who are vulnerable to trafficking need prevention measures, and traffickers need to be brought to justice.

The importance of accurate Tier rankings cannot be overstated. Over the last 12 years, we have seen countries begin in earnest the hard work of reaching the minimum standards after the TIP Report accurately exposed—with a Tier III ranking—each country's failure to take significant action against human trafficking. By the same token, a premature boost to Tier II, such as what occurred with Vietnam last year, may not only undermine progress, but fail to inspire it. The tier rankings were meant to be, and in large part have become, a powerful tool in the fight against human trafficking.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE ANNIVERSARY

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Armenian Caucus, I am pleased to continue to lend my support to the Armenian-American community and the people of Armenia in any way that I can. I support strongly the work that all the members of the Armenian American community do to foster strong ties between America and Armenia.

This month we mark a somber and important anniversary.

Ninety-eight years ago, the Ottoman empire committed one of the largest crimes against humanity in world history. The systematic annihilation of over a million Armenian men, women and children is a crime that cannot be forgotten. We will not allow it to be forgotten.

I know that many will say that the Armenian deaths occurred in the midst of war and social disruption and so we cannot call it genocidal killing, or that we cannot even say accurately how many people died and how they died. Such arguments avoid the evidence. The evidence shows that more than a million Armenians died at the hands of the Ottoman empire.

Further, some will complain that these statements unfairly besmirch the dignity and reputation of today's Turks. I would say that recognizing genocide from nearly a century ago need not sully the reputation of modern-day Turks any more than accounts of disreputable, brutal or atrocious behavior of early settlers in the Americas, or of Germans in the 1930s and 1940s, or South Africa under apartheid, or other historical regimes reflect badly on those nations today, unless those nations refuse to acknowledge and learn from past evils and mistakes.

I'm also pleased that so many of my colleagues have joined me in supporting continued U.S. government aid and support for Armenia and the people of Nagorno Karabakh. These remain challenging times for the people of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, and I hope our colleagues on the Appropriations Committees in the House and Senate honor our request for that aid to continue.

On this anniversary of the genocide against the Armenian people, let us recommit ourselves to ensuring that the truth about this heinous event is acknowledged by every country in the world.

HONORING THE ARCHIE HIGH SCHOOL WHIRLWINDS GIRL'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Archie High School Whirlwinds girls basketball team for finishing with a perfect regular season for the first time in school history.

I want to commend them for their outstanding teamwork, sportsmanship and training throughout the 2012–2013 season.

I applaud each and every one of them for their contribution to the team and the hard work necessary to achieve this accomplishment. The team was astutely guided by head coach Troy Schulte, and assistant coach Charles Plattner, and the basketball players included seniors Kara Fisher, Kaily Kurzweil, Stefani Simms, and Mallory Wiskur; juniors Leslie Iseman and Jordan Schulte; sophomores Tiffany Greenwood, Samantha Ogden, Taylor Plattner, and Mary Kurzweil; and freshman Arely Guajardo, Mallory Lyons, Brooke Wiskur and Quincy Young.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in applauding the history,

goals and accomplishments associated with Archie High School girls basketball, and extend to the 2012–2013 team the most heartfelt congratulations for completing a perfect regular season.

LINYEINER GONZALEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Linyeiner Gonzalez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Linyeiner Gonzalez is a 12th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Linyeiner Gonzalez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Linyeiner Gonzalez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF DRUG-RESISTANT DISEASES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing that examined a deadly phenomenon involving both natural and man-made elements—diseases that are resistant to most or all available methods of treatment. While this is a growing problem of increasing concern throughout the world, the subcommittee focused yesterday on the impact of such diseases—known as “superbugs”—in developing countries and the challenges to preventing and treating these diseases in this part of the world.

There is a family of germs that occur normally in everyone's digestive system. They can cause infections when they get into the bladder, blood or other areas where they don't belong. That is the natural part of this growing problem. Gut flora are absolutely essential for health and an effectively functioning immune response. There are about 100 trillion microorganisms in our digestive systems—ten times the number of cells in our bodies. Most of them help break down the foods we eat. Those that are not helpful are usually can be treated with existing medicines, such as antibiotics.

The man-made part is that antibiotics have been used increasingly to treat naturally occurring germs, but many of them have become resistant to such treatment. These so—

called “superbugs” pose a threat because of overuse or misuse of antibiotics, but they also pose a threat because of what some call a “drug discovery void,” in which there has been insufficient research and development of new medicines to treat emerging mutating infections.

This situation recently has become much more serious. In the last 10 years, these drug-resistant diseases have been identified in patients in more than 200 hospitals in 42 states in this country. Over that period, their prevalence rate has increased from 1 percent of patients to 4 percent for those in short-term care, but for patients in long-term care facilities, the rate is as high as 18 percent. Half of all patients who contract these diseases do not survive.

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, or MRSA, one of the better known of these superbugs, now kills as many as 19,000 Americans each year and a similar number in Europe. That is higher than the annual rate of deaths from HIV and AIDS.

Last year, the World Health Organization identified strains of gonorrhea and tuberculosis that are currently completely untreatable, as well as a new wave of what might be called “super superbugs” with the mutation known as NDM1. These frightening new strains were first seen in India, but they have now spread worldwide. The spread of the H7N9 bird flu in China is causing considerable concern—with more than 100 confirmed cases and 22 deaths reported thus far. According to Agence France Presse, WHO said yesterday that there is still no evidence that H7N9 was spreading in a “sustained” way between people in China.

According to WHO, artemisinin, when used in combination with other drugs, is now considered the world's best treatment against malaria, but malarial parasites resistant to artemisinin have emerged in western Cambodia, along the border with Thailand.

In the developed world, we pride ourselves on having top-flight medical care widely available to patients. If we lose half of all patients who contract these drug-resistant diseases, what about patients in the developing world, where statistics are often scarce and effective medical care can be even scarcer? Using accepted protocols for treating these diseases, their rate of infection can be curbed.

In Israel, infection rates in all 27 of its hospitals fell by more than 70 percent in one year with a coordinated prevention program. By following accepted protocols for handling these diseases, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Florida Department of Health both have stopped outbreaks of these drug resistant diseases in recent years. But what about hospitals in developing countries?

For example, the brain drain has sent trained medical personnel in Africa in search of better working conditions and pay in the developed world. The lack of equipment and supplies that partly led to this brain drain would facilitate the rapid spread of drug resistant diseases in these countries. What would be simple interventions, including removing temporary medical devices such as catheters or ventilators from patients as soon as possible, is less likely under current conditions in developing world hospitals. Adding to this problem is the presence of expired and coun-

terfeit drugs. Patients whose lives could be saved may not be because of inadequate medical care. Unfortunately, because so many countries do not maintain and report statistics on medical issues, we have little idea how serious the situation is today in developing countries in Africa and elsewhere around the world.

In our interconnected world, that means that infected people in the developing and developed countries pose a mutual threat.

Last month, a Nepalese man was detained at the Texas border while trying to make an illegal crossing from Mexico. Officials found he was infected with an extensively drug resistant strain of tuberculosis and had carried this potentially deadly airborne disease through 13 countries over three months—from his home country of Nepal through South Asia, Brazil, Mexico and finally the United States. Who can say how many people he infected during this long journey?

Conversely, six years ago an American infected with multi-drug resistant tuberculosis traveled from this country to France, Greece and Italy before returning through the Czech Republic and Canada. Upon his return to the U.S., he became the first person subjected to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention isolation order since 1963.

Clearly, both developed and developing nations must work together to prevent and treat for these diseases and find a way to implement the new strategies in an era of constrained budgets and loosening control of authority in far too many countries. However, the Administration's proposed FY 2014 budget calls for a 19 percent cut in funding for tuberculosis programming at a time we need such capacity the most.

HONORING EILEEN AND MIKE LONG

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Eileen and Mike Long on their fiftieth wedding anniversary, and to celebrate the lasting bond of love and happiness they have shared during their life together.

Mike, a born and raised New Yorker, has led a proud career of public service. A former Marine and New York City Councilman, he has unquestioningly served his country and the residents of Brooklyn. He continues his service today as the Chairman of the New York State Conservative Party.

Eileen served the people of Staten Island and Brooklyn honorably as an aide to both Representative Susan Molinari and Representative Vito Fossella.

Mike and Eileen were married in 1963 and are the proud and loving parents of nine children and seventeen grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of New York, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Eileen and Mike Long on their fiftieth wedding anniversary and wishing them fifty more.

IN RECOGNITION OF THIS YEAR'S NRECA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FOR COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, each year, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association recognizes one co-op whose dedication to increasing energy access in rural America has made a significant difference in their community. The 2013 winner of the NRCA's Community Service Award for Community Investment hails from a small town called Welcome, Minnesota.

Federated Rural Electric has created jobs and helped to improve the quality of life in rural Minnesota by improving access to electricity in a cost effective and efficient manner.

Federated Rural Electric helped AGCO Corporation, a worldwide manufacturer and distributor of agricultural equipment, in their efforts to expand its Minnesota facility and add over 200 jobs. Last April, I had the opportunity to visit AGCO and see the great work they are doing to create jobs and grow their local economy in Jackson, Minnesota.

In addition to supporting AGCO, Federated Rural Electric has served over 9,000 residents of southern Minnesota. Federated has made invaluable contributions to rural Minnesota communities.

Today, I'm proud to honor Federated Rural Electric for its support of reliable energy and dedication to Minnesota's rural population.

LILIANA MERAZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Liliana Meraz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Liliana Meraz is an 11th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Liliana Meraz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Liliana Meraz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.